

SYRACUSE POST STANDARD (NY)

3 October 1985

Ex-CIA Officials Paint Bleak Picture

By ERIC LICHTBLAU

Two former top officials in the Central Intelligence Agency left few public figures or myths of national security unscathed Wednesday night at Cornell University while painting a terrifying picture of U.S. foreign covert operations.

John Stockwell, former station chief for CIA operations in Angola, and David MacMichael, a former senior staff analyst for the CIA, are to testify today in Syracuse on behalf of a group arrested for refusing to leave Sen. Alfonse D'Amato's office where they were protesting U.S. intervention in Nicaragua.

Wednesday, a captivated audience of about 300 people heard their talks in Ithaca.

MacMichael spoke at Cornell shortly after returning from The Hague, The Netherlands, where he testified before the World Court on U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. He labeled a State Department report released to the World Court this week on Nicaragua "the single most dishonest document produced by the United States government that I know of."

Stockwell and MacMichael, who both spoke out after breaking ties with the CIA, narrated vivid horror stories Wednesday night of U.S. agents castrating, maiming, and torturing citizens from around the globe, all in the name of democracy and national security.

While the two spoke briefly of worldwide covert operations over the past 20 years in places such as Angola, Iran, Chad, Cuba, and China, they empha-

sized the emergency of the current situation in Nicaragua, where they said the United States government is funding, training, and supplying arms for Contra rebels in their fight against the Sandinistas.

"It's illegal, it's war what they're doing against the Nicaraguans," Stockwell said.

MacMichael stressed that the "wicked and unconscionable" U.S. foreign policy strategies go far beyond the visible arm of the CIA.

"It is a much larger problem. The CIA does not run the foreign policy of the United States. It does the dirty jobs, yes," but only at the president's directive, he said.

Both Stockwell and MacMichael implicated the media and Congress in the national conspiracy to conceal foreign policy, charging that some journalists are more than willing to disseminate false information on covert activities while some public officials accept bribes in passing favorable legislation and testifying before Congressional hearings.

"We're talking about a world of lies," Stockwell said.

In leveling his charges, Stockwell attacked the honesty and competency of such public figures as Henry Kissinger and Jeanne Kirkpatrick, but was particularly critical of President Reagan.

The president has "a defective mind and quite possibly a defective soul," Stockwell said, describing Reagan as "like an 8-year-old playing cowboys and Indians, playing nuclear war."